

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES STORY RE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES,  
APRIL 13

THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BY MARTIN  
TOLCHIN:

QUOTE: UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION,  
SENATOR DENNIS DECONCINI AGREED TODAY TO SOFTEN A CONTRO-  
VERSIAL RESERVATION THAT HE WAS PROPOSING TO THE SECOND  
PANAMA CANAL TREATY.

QUOTE: THE ARIZONA DEMOCRAT MET WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF  
STATE WARREN M. CHRISTOPHER AND SAID AFTERWARD THAT HE  
HAD 'RELUCTANTLY' ACCEPTED 'SOME LANGUAGE TO MODIFY OR  
CLARIFY' THE RESERVATION, WHICH WOULD GIVE THE UNITED STATES  
AN IMMEDIATE RIGHT TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN PANAMA IF  
NECESSARY TO KEEP THE CANAL OPEN.

QUOTE: THE ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, DID NOT COMMIT ITSELF  
TO THAT LANGUAGE AS THE FINAL TEXT. IT HAD BEEN SHARPLY  
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CRITICIZED FOR ACCEPTING A DECONCINI RESERVATION TO THE  
FIRST TREATY WITHOUT GETTING THE APPROVAL OF PANAMA AND  
LEADERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

QUOTE: THAT FIRST RESERVATION, WHICH PROVIDED FOR POSSIBLE  
MILITARY INTERVENTION TO KEEP THE CANAL OPEN AFTER THE  
YEAR 2000, HAS PROVOKED A STORM OF PROTEST IN PANAMA, AND

MR. DECONCINI SAID TODAY THAT NO AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO MODIFY IT AS WELL.

QUOTE: THE FIRST TREATY, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE NEUTRALITY OF THE CANAL, WAS APPROVED BY THE SENATE ON MARCH 16 BY A VOTE OF 68 TO 32, OR JUST ONE VOTE MORE THAN THE NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. MR. DECONCINI AND ONE OTHER SENATOR HAD SAID THEY WOULD NOT VOTE FOR THAT PACT WITHOUT THE RESERVATION THAT WAS ATTACHED TO IT.

QUOTE: THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN COURTING MR. DECONCINI SO THAT IT WILL NOT LOSE HIS VOTE ON THE SECOND TREATY, WHICH PROVIDES FOR A GRADUAL TRANSFER OF THE CANAL TO PANAMA WITH FULL CONTROL PASSING IN THE YEAR 2000. THE VOTE ON THAT PACT IS DUE NEXT TUESDAY.

QUOTE: TODAY'S DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED IN A CRISIS ATMOSPHERE. THE SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP MET LATE THIS AFTERNOON TO CONSIDER HOW TO COPE WITH MR. DECONCINI.

QUOTE: 'WE ARE OBVIOUSLY IN A REAL CRISIS', SAID A SENATOR WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING. 'THE FEELING WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT LET US DOWN ON THE DECONCINI THING. HE PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN READ IT.'

QUOTE: THE SENATORS ARGUED ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF  
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ACCEPTING ANY FURTHER RESERVATIONS, AND OF APPROVING A TREATY THAT THE PANAMANIAN WOULD REJECT.

QUOTE: BECAUSE OF THE CONFUSION, SENATOR DECONCINI CANCELED A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. THE SENATOR SAID HE HAD NOTHING CONCRETE TO DISCUSS WITH MR. CARTER.

QUOTE: SENATOR DECONCINI, A FRESHMAN DEMOCRAT FROM ARIZONA WHO HAS RISEN TO PROMINENCE DURING THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY DEBATE, MET WITH MR. CHRISTOPHER FOR AN HOUR THIS MORNING, ACCORDING TO THE SENATOR. HE SAID THAT MR. CHRISTOPHER PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR THE TWO NEW RESERVATIONS THAT WOULD GIVE THE UNITED STATES THE IMMEDIATE RIGHT TO SEND TROOPS ANYWHERE IN PANAMA TO KEEP THE CANAL OPEN AND FREE THE UNITED STATES FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PICKING UP ANY CANAL DEFICIT.

QUOTE: THE SENATOR SAID OF MR. CHRISTOPHER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TWO NEW RESERVATIONS, "THE LANGUAGE HE HAS GIVEN ME IS SATISFACTORY TO ME'.

QUOTE: 'THE ONLY QUESTION IS THE FIRST DECONCINI RESERVATION', THE SENATOR ADDED. 'THEY WANTED SOME LANGUAGE TO MODIFY OR CLARIFY IT'.

QUOTE: THE RESERVATION GIVES THE UNITED STATES THE RIGHT TO USE MILITARY FORCE IN PANAMA UNILATERALLY IF THE CANAL'S OPERATION IS EVER THREATENED, EVEN BY A STRIKE.

QUOTE: THE ADMINISTRATION, FEARFUL THAT THIS PROVISION MIGHT CAUSE PANAMA TO REJECT THE TREATIES, SOUGHT TO PERSUADE MR. DECONCINI TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT SEEK TO INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PANAMA.

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QUOTE: THE SENATOR CONTENDED THAT SUCH A CLARIFICATION WAS UNNECESSARY.

QUOTE: 'MY AMENDMENT WAS NEVER INTENDED TO PORTRAY THE RIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES TO INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THAT COUNTRY', HE SAID. 'MY AMENDMENT DOES NOT USE THE WORD 'INTERVENTION'.'

QUOTE: THE RESERVATION ATTACHED TO THE NEUTRALITY TREATY PROVIDES THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN 'TAKE SUCH STEPS AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS, INCLUDING THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE IN PANAMA, TO REOPEN THE CANAL OR RESTORE THE OPERATIONS OF THE CANAL AS THE CASE MAY BE.'

QUOTE: THE SENATOR CONTENTS THAT THIS DOES NOT GIVE THE UNITED STATES THE RIGHT TO USE MILITARY FORCE TO OUST AN UNFRIENDLY GOVERNMENT, TO QUELL A RIOT, OR FOR ANY PURPOSE NOT CONNECTED WITH THE CLOSING OF THE CANAL.

QUOTE: SENATOR DECONCINI, ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD ACCEPT A CLARIFICATION IF PANAMANIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREATY HINGED ON SUCH A STATEMENT, REPLIED, 'I FEEL THAT MY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE NOT TO PANAMA, THEY'RE TO MY COUNTRY'.

QUOTE: SEVERAL LIBERAL SENATORS COMPLAINED, MEANWHILE, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD MISLED THEM INTO BELIEVING THAT THE PANAMANIAN HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT THE DECONCINI RESERVATION TO THE NEUTRALITY TREATY.

QUOTE: 'IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE THAT PANAMA HAD AGREED TO THIS', A DEMOCRATIC SENATOR SAID.

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QUOTE: SENATOR EDWARD W. BROOKE, REPUBLICAN OF MASSACHUSETTS, SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD HANDLED THE TREATIES 'VERY POORLY', AND UNLESS THERE WERE MODIFICATIONS HE WOULD VOTE 'NO' NEXT WEEK. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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